

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a final rejection of Claims 1-15, 17 and 18, which were all of the then pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the prior art. In particular, Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 17 and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,834,297 (Peiffer, et al.) in view of a document "Web Workshop JavaScript" (Lemay, et al.). Claims 5, 10 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Peiffer, et al. in view of Lemay and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,163,780 (Ross).

Applicants are filing herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to continue the prosecution of the present application.

This Amendment is being submitted to amend independent Claims 1, 6 and 11. The limitations of Claims 2, 3, 4, 17 and 18 are being added to Claim 1, and thus Claims 2, 3, 4, 17 and 18 are being cancelled. Also, Claims 7, 8 and 9 are being cancelled because the limitations of these claims are being added to Claim 6; and, similarly, Claims 12-14 are being canceled because the limitations thereof are being added to Claim 11. New Claims 19-21, which are dependent from Claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively, are being added to describe preferred features of the present invention.

For the reasons discussed below, Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21, which are now all of the pending claims, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is thus asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 and to allow these claims and new Claims 19-21.

Generally, Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable because the prior art does not disclose or suggest reducing the size of a requested file in the manner described in independent Claims 1, 6 and 11. In order to best understand this difference between the claims and the prior art, it may be helpful to review briefly the present invention and the prior art.

The instant invention provides methods and systems for preparing files for downloading over computer networks, and more specifically, for reducing the size of files before downloading the files. As may be appreciated, when reducing the size of a file that is to be downloaded, conflicting considerations need to be addressed. On the one hand, it is desirable to remove as much data as reasonably possible from the file, thus maximizing the extent to which the downloading of the file is speeded up. On the other hand, it is important, or highly desirable, not to remove from the file data that determines how the file is displayed.

The present invention effectively addresses these conflicting considerations.

To elaborate, in accordance with the present invention, the size of the file is reduced by removing pre-identified matter, including both renderable and non-renderable data, from the file. For example, unused logic blocks are removed, recurring identifiers are shortened, and duplicated logic blocks are consolidated. Reducing the size of the file is not as easy as simply taking data out, though. Procedures need to be designed and put in place that can be used to determine what data to remove.

For example, in order to remove unused logic blocks, the present invention first identifies logic blocks that are unused and then removes those unused blocks. Similarly, to consolidate duplicate functions, the preferred embodiment of the invention first identifies functions that are

duplicated in the file, and replaces those identified, duplicated functions with a reference to a single function in a library.

There are a number of specific details of the present invention that are not shown in or suggested by the prior art. For example, the references of record do not show or suggest reducing the size of a web content file, in order to prepare that file for downloading over a computer network, by identifying logic blocks that are unused in the file and removing those identified, unused logic blocks.

In particular, Peiffer, et al, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims, discloses a procedure for accelerating data transmission over a computer network, and, in particular, filtering data from a web resource to increase the speed at which this resource can be transmitted over a network. In this procedure, a portion of an original web resource is processed to form a size-optimized web resource having a smaller file size than the original web resource, and that size-optimized web resource is sent to the remote client.

Peiffer, et al, in the Abstract and in column 2, indicates that the data that are filtered may include whitespace, comments, hard returns, meta tags, keywords, or other data. In the Office Action, the Examiner argued that the hard return characters removed in the process described in Peiffer, et al. correspond to the unused logic blocks removed by the present invention (Office Action, page 3, lines 16-18). With the Peiffer, et al. process, though, no determination is made as to whether a particular hard return is or is not used. Instead, with the procedure described in Peiffer, et al, it is assumed that a browser does not render certain ASCII characters, and thus these characters are removed (Peiffer, et al, column 9, lines 11-20.).

In addition, it is important to emphasize that there is a significant difference between removing unused logic blocks, such as is done with the present invention, and removing other types of data, such as whitespaces and comments, such as are mentioned in Peiffer, et al. Specifically, these other types of data can be removed automatically wherever they are found; while logic blocks cannot – at least not without possibly affecting the way the data is shown or rendered. Before a logic block can be removed, it must first be determined, as mentioned above, whether the logic block is or is not unused.

The present invention does this; Peiffer, et al. does not.

This feature of the invention also is not shown in or suggested by Lemay. This reference is a book that describes working with Javascript. The Examiner has cited specific portions of Lemay, including page 227, line 10 to page 229, line 9 for its disclosure of several Javascript features. It is important to note, however, these features of Lemay are not used to remove data from a text file. Lemay, in contrast, teaches how to use Javascript to add graphics – not how to remove script language while maintaining the page layout.

The other references of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or suggest the above-described feature of the present invention.

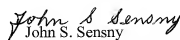
For instance, U.S. Patent 6,163,780 (Ross) describes procedures for condensing computer code. The system disclosed in this reference works with byte code, while the present invention works with the scripting language. Byte code is the highest level of abstraction. Because of this, Ross and the present invention address very different situations, and the teaching of Ross provide little, if any guidance to those of ordinary skill in the art on how to reduce a web file while maintaining the page layout.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 describe the above-discussed feature of this invention. Specifically, each of these claims describes the feature of identifying unused logic blocks in the web content file, and removing those identified, unused logic blocks from that file. Moreover, each of these claims, as presented herewith, positively sets forth the limitation that these unused logic blocks are functions that are in the file but not used.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 6 and 11 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, Claims 1, 6 and 11 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 19-21 are dependent from Claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively, and are allowable therewith.

For the reasons discussed above, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow these claims and new Claims 19, 20 and 21. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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